(d) if so, by when mobile services proposed to be made available in the Dharchula, Jhulaghat, Pancheshwar, Tanakpur and Banbasa areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based cellular mobile service of BSNL in Uttarakhand State is working satisfactorily in general. However, sometimes there is some disruption mainly due to difficult hilly terrains, Optical Fiber Cable breakdown because of road widening, prolonged electricity failure etc. Also there is congestion in the network sometimes at some places. BSNL has plans to augment its mobile network in Uttarakhand State for enhanced capacity, coverage and Quality of Service (QoS). Network is also being optimized by way of drive tests on regular basis to ensure QoS.

(c) and (d) Provision of mobile service in border areas of State is being done under the general development plan of mobile service in the state. However, there is no special plan of BSNL for expansion of GSM based mobile service in the border areas of the State. Action has been inititated to commission mobile service at Tankapur during the current financial year and also at Banbasa during the subsequent financial year.

There is no plan to provide mobile services in Dharchula, Jhulaghat and Pancheshwar as they are situated in the international buffer zone of 500 meters where there is restriction by Government of India to provide mobile services.

Violation of licence agreement by Reliance Infocom

1037. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the re-routing of the international calls as local calls by Reliance Infocom, Government have incurred huge revenue loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to recover that amount from the private player;

(d) whether Government proposes to revoke the license of the company for violation of license agreement; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) M/s Reliance Infocom Limited (RIL) tampered the Calling Line Identification of certain incoming ISD calls and regenerated and re-routed the calls as domestic calls during 2004, thereby avoiding the payment of statutory Access Deficit Charges to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). MTNL and BSNL raised bills amounting to Rs. 341.27 crores and Rs. 319.04 crores respectively on M/s RIL as per their Interconnect Agreements. M/s RIL have paid the same. The matter is *sub-judice* in Delhi High Court.

(d) and (e) Union of India issued the Show Cause Notices to M/s RIL regarding tampering of Calling Line Identification (CLI) of incoming ISD calls to evade Access Deficit Charge (ADC). Government after following the due process as per provisions of the Licence Agreements levied a penalty of Rs. 150 crores on M/s RIL (Rs. 50 crores each against the

Unified Access Services Licences of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata service areas). M/s RIL appealed in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), however, the appeal was dismissed. M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs. 150 crores in March, 2005. M/s RIL further filed a Civil Appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement of the TDSAT and the matter is *sub-judice.*

Thus, a suitable action has already been taken by the Government for the violation of license conditions and there is no proposals to revoke the liencse of M/s RIL.

Decline in efficiency of Postal Department

1038. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of Postal Department has been deteriorating fast so far as the delivery of mail is concerned as the mail from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh which are connected by overnight mails trains with Delhi and where the mail was normally received the following day, now takes not less than 5 to 6 days for delivery;

(b) whether the Postal Department has looked into reasons for this tardy action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed by the Department to improve the movement and delivery of mail in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Department of Posts has fixed norms for delivery of mail across the country, and has widely circulated them for information of public. For delivery of mails in a State other than the State where letters are posted, the norms are 3 to 5 days, depending upon the distance involved and transport links. Mail arrangements from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are designed to ensure delivery within these norms in Delhi. The incidents of occasional delay in delivery of mail can be due to any of the reasons like cancellation/late running of trains or State Transport buses carrying mails, missending of mails incomplete and illegible address of the addressee, non-use of PIN code, occasional heavy seasonal workload around Diwali festival etc., non-availability of addressee, change in the residence of the addressee without intimation to the concerned Postmaster etc.

(d) Bringing improvement in transmission and delivery of mail is a continuous process. Following action has been taken from time to time, to improve transmission and delivery of mails:

(i) Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards.

(ii) Progressive mechanization of delivery by providing mopeds to postman for delivery work in outlying areas of big cities.

(iii) Rationalization/restructuring of delivery with a view to deploy adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomerations.

(iv) Surprise checks on the delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.